

RICHMOND, VA., SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 1914.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

DARK TOBACCOS IN TIME OF GREAT WAR

Banks and Dealers May Come to Help of Virginia Dark Growers.

A LITTLE QUARREL AT HOME

Big Fight Among Nations Across Waters May Bring Peace and Better Prices This Side.

With war going on pretty much all over Europe, and decidedly active in the countries that take the long dark and red shipping tobacco that grow to perfection in the Shenandoah Valley, the growers of and the dealers in these grades of the great Virginia staple have something more serious to consider than the quarrel between the Co-operative Farmers' Union and the dealers of agents of middle men. A little quarrel that has on for weeks and months, even to two years before the outbreak of war, was sounded. As is well known, it was frequently stated in these columns while they were giving space to both sides in that tobacco controversy. England, Germany, Austria and Italy take nearly all of this dark, heavy tobacco. The two last named countries taking a great deal more of it than the two first named.

The breaking out of such a gigantic war among these countries has simply put a stop to the business for a while, anyhow, and so the farmers' unions on one side and the dealers' special agents, console and middle men on the other, really have nothing now to quarrel about, and will not have until this war is over and business can be resumed without interruption. In the meantime, it may be well enough to suggest that the enforced vacation will give them a good opportunity to talk over matters in a calmer and less excited spirit, and perhaps enable them to come to some understanding that will make them ready to get right down to business when shipping to the foreign ports again in full swing.

USE GOOD BETTER FOR THE WAR, PERHAPS

When this good day comes the probability is that the dark shipping tobacco of Virginia will be in a great demand and bring higher figures than ever known before, for when the war does cease it is certain that those countries will be out of tobacco, and it will be exceedingly anxious for it. In the meantime the farmers and the dealers will have to reach some agreement as to how to hold the goods now on hand and to be grown this year until the demand, the Austrians, the Italians and the Englishmen are again in the market. The growers will, of course, have to have some money advanced on their seedlings, and some how or other the middle men can arrange this. It is to be desired that the Farmers' Co-operative Union can or will.

Just in this connection it is well enough to say that the scare as to the dark weed will be called upon to bear, have been exaggerated, as matters now stand. It is true that there is no way now to get the goods to the countries at war, and that have heretofore been taking the weed, and it is true that the prices and factories that are engaged in the business of ordering and preparing the goods for the foreign markets are completely closed, but I am reliably informed by those in position to know that pretty much all of last year's crop was shipped before the war broke out. So, on this side of the ocean, the bulk of that is in the hands of the buyers, the consuls and the middle men, and so, in any event, the growers are not depending to hurt so far as last year's crop is concerned.

NO FOREIGN GROWERS

OF COURSE, there is no one until after this year's crop is made, out-cured and prepared for the local markets, the farmers will come in for trouble, and a great deal of it, and it is on this side of the ocean that some kind of a deal with the bankers and the middle men to tide them over. However, very few people believe this year's crop will be much through this year. It is, indeed, it is still on at the close of the year. Wars are too destructive and too expensive to extend over years, as they did in the olden times, and the military experts are of the opinion that this one will be settled with two or three great clashes, and the whole thing will be over in a few months.

It will probably be a surprise to many readers of The Times-Dispatch when they learn from these few lines that Germany, England, Austria, France, Italy, grow a great deal of tobacco. It is a deplorable state, and entirely for smoking both in the pipe and the cheap cigar shape. With war in those countries this year, it is very certain that the tobacco will be grown there, for the farmers at home to cultivate the little soil not overrun by armies will give all of their attention to the growing of foodstuffs, and so, when the countries again get at peace and come to this country for a tobacco supply, they will call for many millions of pounds more than they usually do, and the Virginia growers will indeed be in a swim. So much for the war scare and its effects on the dark tobacco market.

THE DARK TOBACCO QUARREL

IS THIS GOOD COUNTRY? The statement was made before the congressional committee, supposed to be investigating the dark shipping tobacco situation in this country, that the Austrian and Italian, and perhaps other foreign agents on the Virginia markets, had entered into a kind of combine, whereby they were getting the goods for less than the cost of production, that is, from 7 to 12 cents per pound, and the governments of Austria and Italy pay these agents over 15 cents per pound. The opinion was expressed that if the United States in the matter would take some steps to make an arrangement, whereby the farmers would get this difference, and thereby make a profit on their tobacco, which it is claimed, costs them something like 5 cents per pound to grow and cure and market.

The senior member of a firm of extensive business for foreign governments, gave some figures that are worthy of study in this connection. He tells me that Austria and Italy, being of the Virginia darks what are known as the A and B grades. The lower grades which are used mostly for sheep wash, and in some cases for other purposes, will not have at any price. This firm's books show that last year

PLEASURE AND INDUSTRIAL SCENES IN BATH COUNTY



Trout Fishing Grounds.

Fishing Under the Shadows.



A Mountain Cornfield.

Growing Work Horses in Bath County.

THE POTASH FAMINE AND THE BEST WAY OUT OF IT

Supply Has Been Coming From Germany, but Now Other Sources Must Be Found.

ANOTHER CHANCE FOR SOUTH VIRGINIA AND OTHER SOUTHERN STATES CAN FIND POTASH RIGHT AT HOME. Views of Experts—Matter Worthy of Thought.

John J. Porter, of Hagerstown, Md., writes for the Manufacturers' Record an article on the subject of potash, which just at this particular time is intensely interesting. Mr. Porter's article follows:

The world's supply of potash is obtained from Germany, and with this source of supply now cut off by the European war, there will inevitably be a famine of this material as soon as the present stocks are exhausted. According to Wall Street Journal, the price has already advanced from 2 cents to 15 cents per pound.

Potash is essential to plant growth, and is one of the three constituents of a complete fertilizer. The other two being phosphorus and nitrogen. Enormous quantities are used annually by the farmers of this country, and this famine bids fair to be a serious matter to our agricultural interests. There is, however, a way out available to a lesser extent. It also renders more certain that they may be able to grow tobacco, for the little soil not overrun by armies will give all of their attention to the growing of foodstuffs, and so, when the countries again get at peace and come to this country for a tobacco supply, they will call for many millions of pounds more than they usually do, and the Virginia growers will indeed be in a swim. So much for the war scare and its effects on the dark tobacco market.

TIMELY VIEWS OF A NUMBER OF EXPERTS

Line, in addition to its valuable action in neutralizing soil acidity and supplying the needed calcium, for plant growth, has the property of rendering soluble and available to plant life the store of inert potash in the soil. To a lesser extent it also renders more readily available the soil stores of phosphorus. The following quotations from some representative authorities will serve to establish these points:

E. H. Jenkins and E. M. East, Bulletin 163, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station: "The element calcium is a necessary constituent of plants; but, as almost all soils contain it in suitable amounts for their needs, the action of lime is not like that of a direct fertilizer. Indirectly, however, it is an agent by which insoluble potash is changed to a form available as plant food."

H. J. Patterson, Bulletin 116, Maryland Agricultural Station: "Lime has not only the effect of aiding in the formation of unions of potash which will be held in the soil, but it also has the ability to liberate potash from combinations which are locked up and unavailable to plants. This is particularly marked when lime is applied to land containing fragments of feldspar."

A FEW REMARKS ON THE SUBJECT BY VIRGINIANS
W. B. Elliot, Bulletin 167, Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station: "Nearly all soils, especially clay soils, contain more or less of the plant food

HOUSTON TAXATION PLAN HAS A STRONG ADVOCATE

Chesterfield County Man Extolls System That Has Made Texas Town Famous.

INCREASES IN POPULATION ALL OF GROWTH AND PROSPERITY OF BAYON METROPOLIS OF LONE STAR STATE ATTRIBUTED TO ITS PECULIAR TAXING WAYS.

By GEORGE E. WRAY.
In 1911 the population of Houston, Texas, was 55,550. In 1912, after two years of the Houston plan of taxation, it rose to 125,570, for the same area. This increase may not be all due to the just system of taxation in vogue in Houston, but the tax system has helped considerably. Will Richmond see the point of this?

In the first six months of 1911, building permits were issued to cover \$1,853,355. In the first six months of 1912 the permits issued covered \$2,017,797 worth of new buildings. It is not claimed that the Houston plan of collecting taxes on buildings is the cause of this 66 per cent increase, but it helped considerably. Can Richmond see the reason?

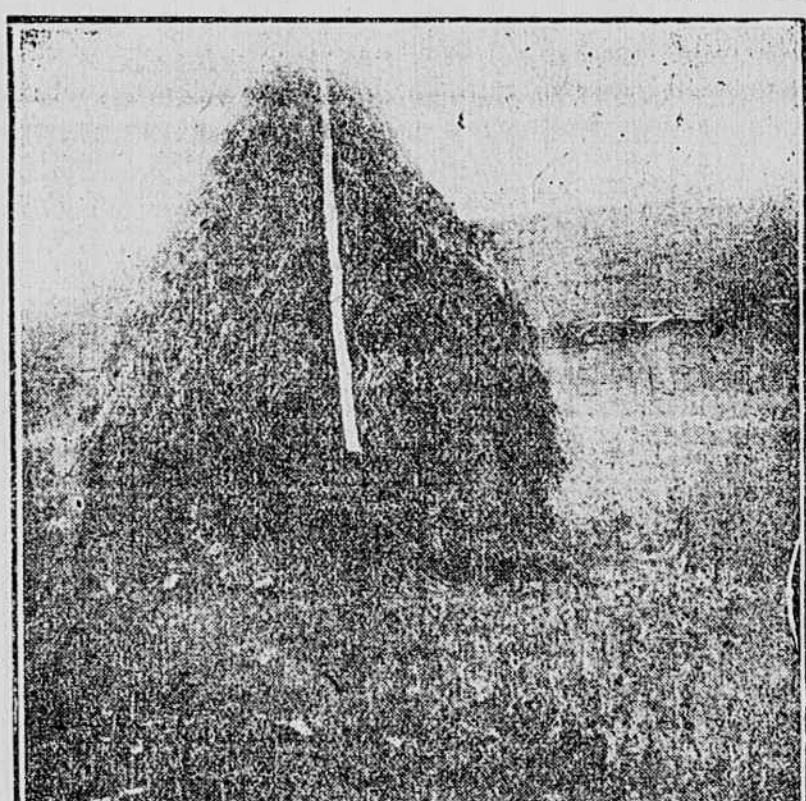
In 1911 Houston's bank deposits were \$24,170,907. In 1912 they were \$28,112,000. The State banks increased their deposits \$300,000, giving a total increase of some \$7,000,000 in two years. It is not asserted that this increase is all due to the Houston plan of taxation, but it certainly had quite an influence. Will Richmond bankers give this matter serious study?

The Bankers' Encyclopedia for 1911 shows that the deposits in Houston were \$15,538,000, an increase of \$10,632,223. The non-taxation of bank deposits in Houston seems to draw capital to that city. What about it, ye taxers of industry? These bank deposits will continue to grow just as long as Houston advertises to the world that it will not permit money to be assessed for taxation purposes. Suppose Richmond would be boosted if it followed the Houston plan?

And once inaugurated, no city ever goes back on the Houston plan. Land is assessed at 70 per cent of its value, buildings at 25 per cent of their value, household goods, industrial tools, stocks in trade, money—these are not taxed at all. In other words, industry is all but free of taxation; hence industry flourishes, while land values increase yearly by the mere presence of people. The plan is a blessing, and the people receive in taxes that which they add to land values.

In writing on this subject, Mr. J. J. Patterson, Houston's long-armed leader, says: "While I am a single taxer, and know just what the single tax means, I state positively that this city is not under the single tax. It only is under the Houston plan. It is only a matter of time when this city, instead of being only as great as it is, would be ten times greater; and we would then have a city on the Houston ship channel that would rival Chicago or New York in a decade; we would have a city where slums and unsanitary tenements would be unheard of; where all men would be steadily employed at wages sufficient to educate their children and support their families in comfort. In short, we would experience the millennium on earth."

Houston people are building homes



Hay Making in Bath.

VERY WONDERFUL SHIP THE GREATEST CAR FERRY

Ship That Flies! Concealed Being Built—Good in Peace and War.

A New York dispatch says: Railroad men who have recently returned from the South have been telling of the "Henry M. Flagler," the first of the big car ferries being built to transfer loaded cars from Key West to Havana for the Florida East Coast Railroad.

The new vessel now on the ways at the Crane shipyards is said to be the largest car ferry ever built. It will carry thirty of the largest freight cars, and will make the trip of ninety-six miles between Key West and Havana in eight hours. Built of steel, the ferry is 250 feet long and has fifty-seven beams and twenty-two feet draught, with a speed when fully loaded of twelve knots an hour. The engines are to develop 3,000-horsepower. Two deep tanks for carrying molasses are built in, and the vessel is fitted throughout with electric appliances for handling cargo and for lighting.

In addition to its commercial features, the Flagler is built so that in case of war it may be fitted out as a gunboat or a transport. Arrangements are made so that it may mount a battery of rapid-fire guns of five-inch caliber and smaller batteries as may be required. A catapult it could carry up to 2,500. When first planned the vessel was to carry thirty-six loaded cars, and when this was changed to thirty cars, the size of the boat and its power were left unchanged, so that it is said to be the most powerful vessel of its class ever built. This is the first of a series of these boats to be built for the Florida East Coast, and it was decided by the officials to name it after the founder of the road, although in his lifetime he refused to permit his name to be used in any, except an official way, with his many corporate interests.

More Bridge Stock.
ROANOKE, VA., August 22.—The Norfolk and Western Railway has ordered 400 tons of bridge steel from the Virginia Bridge and Iron Works, of Roanoke, for a viaduct to be erected over Tug River.

VIEWS AND NEAR VIEWS: HINTS AND SUGGESTIONS

BY FRANK S. WOODSON, Industrial Editor.

This column is open to contributors who have something to say of a suggestive nature, and who are willing to make hints and suggestions looking to the better development of the good old States of Virginia, West Virginia, and North Carolina, and who can hold their suggestions down in any one issue from 150 to 200 words. Such communications, addressed to the Industrial Editor, will receive prompt attention.

Local Review and Outlook.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s Richmond trade report for The Times-Dispatch says:

The corn and tobacco crops in the eastern and central parts of the State have been helped considerably by local showers, which fell in the early part of the week, and the hot weather that followed eased rapid growth. In the counties, however, rains are badly needed.

It was freely predicted last week that further advances would be made in prices of food staples over those prevailing at that time, but interest quotations available show they are not practically the same. Most drugs have increased to some extent. A number of raw materials used in paper manufacturing have in the past been obtained from Europe, and as these are difficult to procure at this time, local plants have received information of advanced prices. However, it is believed locally that this condition will be more than offset by the advantage accruing to manufacturers in this country, on account of foreign competition being off the domestic market.

In the wholesale trade, shipments of fall merchandise are reported to be up to the average, and, in some instances, substantial increases are shown. Good results were obtained from "Better Acquaintance Week," and the number of visiting merchants in the local market was considerably larger than last year. Purchases of general merchandise being liberal. The principal retail stores have clearance sales in progress, and stocks of summer merchandise have been reduced to about normal for the season.

More building has been going on in the past sixty days than for some months past, the bulk of the structure being of small size, but in considerable number, and consequently lumber and building materials are in good demand. This is assigned as a reason for the increased call for capital, but local banks are in a position to furnish necessary funds. As plans for the satisfactory financing of the cotton crop are making progress, confidence in this financial adjustment of this important matter is generally expressed. This year has considerable effect on the local commercial situation. Coal for domestic use is not in strong demand, but it is reported that some good contracts have been placed for winter shipment.

Collections continue slow, as a rule, and it is not expected that this condition will be materially changed until after the season's crops are disposed of.

Creative Work Needed Now.

There is a hint from the Manufacturers' Record that the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and the schools in Virginia and the South may well heed:

"From Cornell comes the report that the shortage of German chemists will, to some extent, hamper the operation and the studies of that great technical school. It would have sounded far more inspiring if that institution had sent forth word that, though German chemists

RICH BATH COUNTY GRASS AND CATTLE

Vast Forests of Most Valuable Timber Are Yet to Be Developed.

NATIVE HEATH OF TURKEY

Bath and Highland Destined to Be Known as Virginia's Richest Counties.

MILLBORO, BATH COUNTY, VA., August 22.—When Virginia people speak of this part of the grand old Commonwealth they usually refer to it as "Bath and Highland." This is natural, as the two counties in matters of soil, products, industries and other things, are much the same. The fact is that the larger portion of Highland County was once a part of Bath, it having been formed from Bath and the County of Pendleton, which latter is now a part of West Virginia. Therefore in writing of the products, the advantages and the delights of Bath County I may be said to be writing of the County of Highland at the same time.

Bath County, as the school boy with his little geography and map in his hand will tell you, is on the extreme western border of the State, and it takes a traveler something like five hours to get here on a fast train, for he has to do a good deal of mountain climbing before he completes the trip. A considerable portion of the county is mountainous, very mountainous, the mean altitude being 2,100 feet above Richmond. Other portions consist of very rich bottom lands that produce everything good to eat.

REGION OF HEALTH AND FAMOUS SPRINGS

The county is well watered by its numerous springs and creeks and Cow Pasture and Jackson River, which, when they get together, form the majestic James.

The climate and scenery are unsurpassed. Reference to the Weather Bureau reports of the United States show Bath to possess a very equable temperature of neither very great extremes of heat or cold, and ample rainfall, well distributed. In a part of the world, as shown by statistics, is there a more general state of good health, or a more long-lived, vigorous people, and in no country in the temperate zone do the inhabitants, from choice, stay more in the open air and open their houses to the weather. This statement is strengthened by the fact that the great hotel at the Virginia Hot Springs, in this county, is kept open the year round as a health resort, and is filled with guests the entire year.

Bath County has long been famous for its numerous mineral springs, to some of which invalids have resorted since the beginning of the last century. The Warm Springs were known for their curative properties as early as 1750.

The most widely known are the Warm Springs, the county seat, the Hot Springs, Healing Springs, Bath Alum, Millboro Springs and Solar Springs. Great numbers of visitors resort to these springs in the summer-time, the Virginia Hot Springs all the year round, bringing into the county and distributing much ready money, a good deal of which gets scattered through the county for supplies, but columns have already been written about these famous health producing springs. I am here to tell about other great things in this good county.

LAND OF GRASS, CATTLE AND OTHER GOOD THINGS

The soil is of limestone, and is rich enough to bring anything the farmer wishes to bring in, and justly so. The grasses grow in perfection, and grazing facilities are unexcelled. Most of the lands take naturally to grass, all you have to do in most sections is to let the sun and the rain do the work, and the grasses spring up without further attention, and in the woods there is a rich growth of wild grapes and other wild growths, on which the deer do well for six months in the year. When they come from the mountain ranges, as they are called, without any cost, other than setting of them, they are out as much as any other food. Under these favorable conditions the raising of cattle, sheep and hogs is one of the big industries of the county, and one of the most profitable.

Some of the finest cattle in the country are raised for the markets in Bath and Highland Counties, and the sheep that are shipped from here have a distinct advantage over the majority of the cities of Washington, New York, Philadelphia and Richmond. The counties also grow many draft and driving horses for the markets, especially the former. Those animals, as stated above, do the most of their grazing on natural pastures of blue grass, some of which have never been plowed, and they become better and better every year, but in late years they have become great hay makers, and vast quantities of superior hay is cultivated, baled and shipped to the Western markets. As the hay is made, it is cured, and many farmers have taken it a alfalfa, and find that they can give it to perfection. Other products of the soil are wheat, corn, oats, and potatoes.

TRUNKS IN GREAT ABUNDANCE

Bath and Highland are the homes of the "backsliding and Christmas turkeys," and vast flocks of these giant birds are raised every year for the city markets, and shipped from here just before Thanksgiving Day and Christmas in carload lots. Nearly every household in these counties has drawn off from five to two hundred and more turkeys, and at the paper time the agents of the commission merchants from the cities to the east, including Richmond, come this way, ride through the land and buy them up. They are then formed into armies and driven, just as cattle are, to the railway stations, and shipped to the hungry denizens of the crowded cities. Turkeys bring a great deal of outside money to Bath and Highland every season.

Fruit culture is also important and profitable in this country, embracing apples, peaches, pears, plums, cherries, grapes and berries, all of which produce fine crops and find a ready market. Large apple and peach orchards abound, of increasing size and number.

TIE TIMBER INTEREST JUST NOW BEING DEVELOPED

This whole section abounds in original growth timber of all kinds except pine, and except along the main line of

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